

**00766**

**1962/10/26**

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

185  
Q

38 31

Action

~~SECRET~~Control: 18744  
Rec'd: OCTOBER 26, 1962  
1:52 PM

EUR

Info

SS

G

SP

L

SAL

BTF

ARA

TO

DAC

P

IOP

INR

RMR

FROM: LONDON

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1696, OCTOBER 26, 4 PM

PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT PRIORITY 1696, INFORMATION MOSCOW 57,  
PARIS 245, BONN 75, BERLIN 6~~LIMIT DISTRIBUTION.~~

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY

DATE 3/3/8

( ) RELEASE

( ) DECLASSIFY

( ) ZINCISE

( ) DECLASSIFY IN PART

( ) DELAY

( ) NON-FOUO/Security Info.

FOI, EO of PA CHIEF

TO SECURITY TO:

( ) CLASSIFY as

OADR

( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) SOR ( ) C. OADR

FOLLOWING IS NORTHERN DEPT'S ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET MOTIVES IN DECISION TO INTRODUCE STRATEGIC MISSILES INTO CUBA WHICH BEING SUBMITTED TODAY TO JIC FOR ITS APPROVAL:

1. IT MUST BE ASSUMED THAT SOVIETS CALCULATED THAT US WOULD SOONER OR LATER BECOME AWARE OF EXTENT OF MISSILE SITES (THEY CANNOT BE CAMOUFLAGED) AND THAT SOME VIGOROUS RESPONSE WOULD HAVE TO BE FORTHCOMING FROM WASHINGTON. BUT VALUE OF MISSILE SITES WAS PRESUMABLY SO GREAT THAT THE SOVIETS FELT JUSTIFIED IN TAKING RISK; MOREOVER THEY MAY HAVE BANKED ON INSTALLATION BEING ERRECTED VERY QUICKLY. IN AN AIR OF GENERALLY PEACEFUL EAST-WEST RELATIONS WITH THEMSELVES DOING EVERYTHING TO PLAY DOWN AN IMMINENT BERLIN CRISIS, THEY MAY HAVE HOPED THAT US, FINDING THEMSELVES FACED WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI, AND RECOGNIZING A SOVIET COMMITMENT EVEN IF IN GENERAL TERMS TO DEFEND CUBA AND PROTECT SHIPPING TO IT, WOULD IN END ACCEPT SITUATION WITH NOTHING MORE THAN LOUD NOISES AND APPEALS TO THE UN ETC AT WHICH INCIDENTALLY WHOLE FOREIGN BASES ISSUE COULD BE RAISED.

2. WE THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT SOVIETS REALLY BELIEVED THAT INSTALLATION OF MISSILE SITES WAS NECESSARY SOLELY FOR THE DEFENSE OF CUBA AND WOULD BE ACCEPTED AS

SUCH. IT

~~SECRET~~REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY  
PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

CLASSIFICATION

X PLEASE

X DELAY

X USE

X

X

X

X

~~SECRET~~

-2- 1696, OCTOBER 26, 4 PM, FROM LONDON

SUCH. IT SEEMS MUCH MORE LIKELY THAT SOVIETS DECIDED TO INSTALL MISSILE COMPLEX BECAUSE ONCE IT BECAME FULLY OPERATIONAL AT END OF THIS YEAR, IT WOULD HAVE GIVEN THEM SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THEIR NUCLEAR STRIKE CAPACITY AGAINST US AND - IN IMPORTANT ASPECT - A CAPACITY INSIDE THE US WARNING NETWORK. IT WOULD HAVE REPRESENTED AN EXTREMELY TEMPTING SHORT CUT TOWARDS REDUCING IMBALANCE IN STRATEGIC STRIKING POWER BETWEEN SOVIETS AND US WITHOUT SOVIETS HAVING TO WAIT YEARS TO ACHIEVE THIS. HITHERTO AMOUNT OF DAMAGE SOVIETS COULD INFLICT ON US TERRITORY IN EVENT OF WAR WOULD BE LESS THAN US COULD INFLICT ON SOVIET TERRITORY - AN IMBALANCE MADE WORSE BY US DECISION TO PRODUCE 800 MINUTEMAN MISSILES, AND ONE WHICH COULD NOT QUICKLY BE REDRESSED BY INCREASED SOVIET MISSILE PRODUCTION. YET IF KHRUSHCHEV WAS TO BRING THINGS TO A HEAD FAIRLY SOON OVER BERLIN SOMETHING MUST BE DONE URGENTLY TO RECTIFY IMBALANCE IF SOVIETS WOULD BE NEGOTIATING POLITICALLY IN AN INFERIOR MILITARY POSITION. KHRUSHCHEV MAY WELL HAVE CALCULATED THAT ONCE CUBAN MISSILE COMPLEX COMPLETED HE COULD FRIGHTEN AMERICANS OFF TAKING DETERMINED ACTION IN BERLIN BY POINTING TO THEIR OWN VULNERABILITY TO ATTACK FROM HIS CUBAN BASE AND THUS OBTAIN HEAVY LEVERAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON BERLIN WHICH HE HAS BEEN PLANNING FOR THE END OF YEAR.

BRUCE

HLN

Note: Advance copies EUR SS.

~~SECRET~~